

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims to delete multiple dependency, including improper multiple dependency, prior to calculation of the filing fee. The amendments herein also present the claims in better form for examination, correcting typographical and grammatical errors.

In light of deletion of multiple dependency, claims 11-20 have been added to the application, to provide claims of different scope than in claims 1-10 as presently amended. Specifically, claims 11-20 respectively expressly recite subject matter expressly recited in claims 3-10, 8 and 9, but are all ultimately dependent on claim 2 (note that in presently amended claim 3 the multiple dependency on claim 2 has been deleted).

Entry of the present amendments, and examination of the above-identified application on the merits in due course, are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. This marked-up version is on the attached pages, the first page of which is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 396.40960X00) and please credit any excess fees to such

Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims presently in the application as follows:

3. (Amended) The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the chemical compound generating hydrogen peroxide in [a] an aqueous solution is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, perborate, percarbonate, persulfate, perphosphate, calcium peroxide, magnesium peroxide and urea peroxide.

5. (Amended) The tooth bleaching composition according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 4], wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of [the] a layer-structure clay mineral, phosphoric acid and phosphate.

6. (Amended) The tooth bleaching composition according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 4], wherein the thickening agent is an inorganic clay mineral selected from the group [consisted] consisting of saponite, montmorillonite, stevensite, hectorite, smectite, nacrite and sepiolite.

8. (Amended) The tooth bleaching composition according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 7], wherein the content of the chemical compound generating hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous solution is 35% by weight or less.

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9. (Amended) A method for bleaching a discolored tooth comprising applying the tooth bleaching [compound described in any one of claims] composition according to claim 1 [to 8] onto the surface of a discolored tooth and irradiating the applied surface [area] with light.

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